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DICTIONARY

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ILLUSTRATED

Forty-four page full-color atlas of human anatomy

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vices) to study the personnel issues in medicine. The Committee issued its final report in September 1980. Among its conclusions were those regarding the supply of nurses in expanded roles, including nurse practitioners and nurse midwives.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE), an examination administered to graduates of institutions of higher learning. The scores are used as criteria for admission to masters and doctoral programs in many institutions and areas of specialization, including nursing. The examination tests verbal and mathematic aptitudes and abilities.

GRAE, abbreviation for **generally recognized as effective.**

graft [Gk *graphion* stylus], a tissue or an organ taken from a site or a person and inserted into a new site or person, performed to repair a defect in structure. The graft may be temporary, such as an emergency skin transplant for extensive burns, or permanent, such as the grafted tissue growing to become a part of the body. Skin, bone, cartilage, blood vessel, nerve, muscle, cornea, and whole organs, such as the kidney or the heart, may be grafted. Preoperative care focuses on a high protein diet and vitamins to ensure optimum physical condition and on freedom from infection. Under general or local anesthesia the tissue is transferred and sutured into place. Rejection is the major complication: fever, pain in the graft area, and evidence of loss of function 4 to 15 days after the procedure are indicative of rejection. Immunosuppressive drugs are given in large doses to suppress antibody production and rejection. Even if an early reaction is blocked, late rejection may occur 1 year or more after the graft is done. Also called **transplant.** See also **allograft, autograft, isograft, skin graft, xenograft.**

graft-versus-host reaction, a rejection response of certain grafts, especially bone marrow. It involves an incompatibility resulting from a deficiency in the immune response of some patients and is commonly associated with inadequate immunosuppressive therapy. Characteristic signs may include skin lesions with edema, erythema, ulceration, scaling, and loss of hair. Such reactions may also cause lesions of the joints and the heart and hemolytic anemia with a positive Coombs' reaction. The graft-versus-host reaction is similar to the Type IV reaction in hypersensitive individuals who receive tuberculin injections. Some experts believe that it involves certain immunologically active cells that originate as the result of defective tolerance mechanisms or as the result of somatic mutation of certain host cells. Also called **homologous disease.**

Graham's law, the law stating that the rate of diffusion of a gas through a liquid (or the alveolar-capillary membrane) is directly proportional to its solubility coefficient and inversely proportional to the square root of its density.

grain (gr) [L *granum* seed], the smallest unit of mass in avoirdupois, troy, and apothecaries' weights, being the same in all and equal to 4.79891 mg. The troy and apothecaries' ounces contain 480 grains; the avoirdupois ounce contains 437.5 grains.

grain itch, a skin condition caused by a mite that lives in grain or straw. The lesion consists of an intensely itchy, urticarial papule surmounted by a tiny vesicle.

gram (g, gm) [L *gramma* small weight], a unit of mass in the metric system equal to $\frac{1}{1000}$ of a kilogram, 15.432 grains, and 0.0353 ounce avoirdupois. The preferred abbreviation is *g*.

-gram, -gramme, **1.** a combining form meaning a 'drawing': *cephalogram, mammogram, splenogram.* **2.** a combining form meaning '1/1000 kilogram': *centigram, decagram, microgram.*

gram calorie. See **calorie.**

gram-equivalent weight (gEq), an equivalent weight of a substance calculated as the gram mass that contains, replaces, or reacts with (directly or indirectly) the Avogadro number of hydrogen atoms. As 1 atom of sulfur (atomic weight 32) combines with 2 atoms of hydrogen (atomic weight 1), the gram equivalent weight of sulfur is 32/2 = 16.

gram-molecular weight (gmW), an amount in grams equal to the molecular weight of a substance, or the sum of all the atomic weights in its molecular formula. In the example of carbon dioxide (CO_2), its gram molecular weight is 12 (atomic weight of carbon) + 2 x 16 (atomic weight of oxygen), or 44 g. See also **mole, molecular weight.**

gram-negative [Hans C. J. Gram, Danish physician, b. 1853; L *negare* to say no], having the pink color of the counterstain used in Gram's method of staining microorganisms. This property is a primary method of characterizing organisms in microbiology. Some of the most common gram-negative pathogenic bacteria are *Bacteroides fragilis, Brucella abortus, Escherichia coli, Haemophilus influenzae, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Neisseria gonorrhoeae, Proteus vulgaris, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Salmonella typhi, Shigella dysenteriae,* and *Yersinia pestis.*

gram-positive [Hans C. J. Gram; L *positivus*], retaining the violet color of the stain used in Gram's method of staining microorganisms. This property is a primary method of characterizing organisms in microbiology. Some of the most common kinds of gram-positive pathogenic bacteria are *Bacillus anthracis, Clostridium, Mycobacterium leprae, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus pneumoniae,* and *Streptococcus pyogenes.*

Gram's stain [Hans C. J. Gram], the method of staining microorganisms using a violet stain, followed by an iodine solution, decolorizing with an alcohol or acetone solution, and counterstaining with safranin. The retention of either the violet color of the stain or the pink color of the counterstain serves as a primary means of identifying and classifying bacteria. Also called **Gram's method.** See also **gram-negative, gram-positive.**

grand mal seizure [Fr, great; illness; *saisir* to seize], an epileptic seizure characterized by a generalized involuntary muscular contraction and cessation of respiration followed by tonic and clonic spasms of the muscles. Breathing resumes with noisy respirations. The teeth may be clenched, the tongue bitten, and control of the bladder lost. As this phase of the seizure passes, the person may fall into a deep sleep for 1 hour or more. Usually, the person has no recall of the seizure on awakening. A sensory warning, or aura, usually precedes each grand mal seizure. These seizures may occur singly, at intervals, or in close succession. Anticonvulsant medications are usually prescribed as prophylaxis against grand mal seizures. Compare **focal seizure, petit mal seizure, psychomotor seizure.**